

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10905 281811Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /090 W
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R 281615Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 362
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SOPN, EG, UR, XF
SUBJECT: SOVIETS SLIGHTLY HARSHER ON EGYPT

REF: 76 MOSCOW 13672

1. IZVESTIYA OF JULY 27 AND PRAVDA OF JULY 28 CARRY
REPORTS ON EGYPT-LIBYA SITUATION WHICH TAKE SOVIETS
A STEP CLOSER TO OPENLY BRANDING EGYPT AS AGGRESSOR.
IZVESTIYA-TASS PIECE IS UNDATED AND IN THE FORM OF A
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COMMENTARY. IT SUMMARIZES THE LIBYAN MESSAGE TO THE
UN, REFERRING DIRECTLY TO EGYPTIAN "AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS,"
AND THEN CITES FOREIGN NEWSPAPER OPINION (INCLUDING
RUDE PRAVO) THAT EGYPT HAS BROKEN ARAB UNITY AND
THAT SADAT, UNDER THE AEGIS OF SAUDI ARABIA, HAD
LONG PREPARED HIS ATTACK ON LIBYA.

2. PRAVDA CARRIES SEVERAL TASS ITEMS WHICH BUILD AN IMPRESSION THAT EGYPT IS THE GUILTY PARTY, INCLUDING A REPORT ON THE LIBYAN UN DOCUMENT, AND ANOTHER ONE FROM NEW YORK THAT THE US WILL SELL EGYPT RECONNAISSANCE AND TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT. THE GDR COMMITTEE ON SOLIDARITY IS QUOTED AS DECLARING THAT ALLEGED EGYPTIAN ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE NEED TO "TEACH A LESSON TO LIBYA" DO NOT CORRESPOND WITH THE NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

3. COMMENT: MOSCOW IS MOVING TOWARD A CLOSER IDENTIFICATION WITH LIBYA BUT CLEARLY DOES NOT WANT TO MAKE FUTURE DEALINGS WITH EGYPT MORE DIFFICULT THAN NECESSARY. SOVIET REACTIONS ARE PROBABLY HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY THE PLANNED GROMYKO VISIT TO CAIRO AND A DESIRE NOT TO NEEDLESSLY JEOPARDIZE THE TRIP BY OPENING POLEMICS WITH EGYPT NOW. CAMPAIGN THUS FAR, THEREFORE, HAS SOMEWHAT UNFOCUSED ELEMENT AS DID PRAVDA OBSERVER OF AUGUST 30, 1976 (REFTEL) ON LAST YEAR'S ROUND OF EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN TENSION; MOSCOW'S CONCERN IS VOICED BUT MIX OF SOVIET INTERESTS INHIBITS DIRECT AND UNEQUIVOCAL STANCE. TOON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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